

According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending August 27, 2000**. Hot and dry conditions continue throughout most of the state. Harvest is progressing quickly in many parts of the state. Prolonged drought conditions have caused severe damage to hay and pastures. Soil moisture was rated 69 percent very short, 26 percent short, and 5 percent adequate.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	1999	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Dent	100	98	100	98	--	--	--	--	--
	Mature	93	86	97	85					
	Harvested	69	50	64	41					
	Silage Harvested	90	60	85	79					
Cotton	Open Bolls	76	57	73	50	11	18	38	28	5
Rice	Heading	90	83	96	95	1	5	29	54	11
	Mature	29	11	40	39					
	Harvested	3	1	7	9					
Sorghum	Turning Color	98	92	98	91	4	14	30	49	3
	Mature	85	69	86	65					
	Harvested	45	24	51	28					
Soybeans	Setting Pods	100	98	100	94	13	25	28	27	7
	Turning Color	52	37	67	41					
	Shedding Leaves	37	23	46	23					
	Harvested	10	5	14	4					
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	77	72	82	85	--	--	--	--	--
Watermelons	Harvested	90	87	93	95	--	--	--	--	--
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	18	12	10	10	6	11	59	23	1
Cattle						6	17	41	33	3
Pasture						39	33	21	6	1

County Agent Comments

“Row crop producers are harvesting corn rapidly, with yields being the lowest since corn acreage increased. Cotton farmers are preparing machinery for harvesting and getting ready to defoliate within the next few days. Livestock producers are preparing fields for planting cool season forages and baling some very poor hay. Most cattlemen are feeding hay and some are setting up supplemental water supplies for cattle.”

— Ernie Flint, Attala County

“Spotty showers across the county have given relief to some farmers over the past two weeks, but soil moisture in most locations is still near nothing. Cattle are holding on, but we need rain soon to help prepare seed beds for winter pastures. Some producers have put up some hay, but others are scrambling to find hay and some are even purchasing last year’s left-over hay.”

— Don Bales, Wilkinson County

“Harvest is progressing swiftly with the aid of dry weather. The hot and dry conditions have reduced the potential for a good crop. Insect pressure in the irrigated crops continues to be a problem.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower County

“Dry weather is still a problem. Cattle producers are feeding hay and feed. Most pastures are in critical condition.”

— Shelby Bearden, Copiah County

Weather Summary from August 21, 2000 to August 27, 2000 for Mississippi													
District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	Pan Evap
1. Upper Delta													
Clarksdale				80		0.00	-0.63	0	1.10				0.28
Cleveland	99	71	85			0.00		0	0.00				
Tunica	102	72	87	79	+ 8	0.00	-0.63	0	0.00	100	82	91	0.21
Extreme/Average	102	71	86	80	+ 6	0.00	-0.63	0	0.55	100	82	91	0.20
2. North-Central													
Holly Springs	99	63	81	77	+ 4	0.00	-0.77	0	2.76	93	77	86	0.23
Memphis	103	73	87	80	+ 7	0.00	-0.77	0	0.83				
Oxford				77		0.00	-0.70	0	1.89				
Extreme/Average	103	63	84	78	+ 6	0.00	-0.71	0	2.33	93	77	86	0.23
3. Northeast													
Booneville	96	63	80	78	+ 2	0.00	-0.70	0	0.50				
Corinth				78		0.00	-0.65	0	0.25				
Iuka						0.00		0	0.52				
Pontotoc	97	68	82	78	+ 4	0.00	-0.64	0	2.11	90	80	85	0.27
Tupelo	101	66	84	79	+ 5	0.00	-0.66	0	1.37				
Verona	100	67	84			0.00		0	0.44	96	81	88	0.37
Extreme/Average	101	63	83	78	+ 5	0.00	-0.70	0	0.89	96	80	87	0.33
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni	103	71	87	80	+ 7	0.78	+0.19	1	0.88	103	90	97	
Greenwood	101	70	85	80	+ 5	0.31	-0.25	4	0.53				
Rolling Fork	101	70	86	80	+ 6	0.00	-0.54	0	0.51	108	90	99	0.25
Stoneville	103	71	86	80	+ 6	0.00	-0.52	0	0.05	101	84	93	0.31
Yazoo City				81		0.13	-0.50	1	1.94				
Extreme/Average	103	70	86	80	+ 6	0.24	-0.32	1	0.85	108	84	96	0.29
5. Central													
Carthage	101	66	83	80	+ 3	0.00	-0.70	0	2.95				
Jackson	103	69	87	80	+ 7	0.00	-0.79	0	0.27				
Winona	101	64	81	77	+ 4	0.00	-0.71	0	1.41				
Extreme/Average	103	64	84	79	+ 5	0.00	-0.70	0	2.18				
6. East-Central													
Brooksville	103	68	85			0.00	-0.77	0	1.95	93	78	86	
Columbus	104	64	85			0.01		1	0.87				
State University	99	66	83	80	+ 3	0.00	-0.71	0	0.55	94	87	91	0.30
Extreme/Average	104	64	84	79	+ 5	0.00	-0.71	0	1.25	94	78	88	0.30
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	102	69	85			0.53		1	2.64	101	80	91	
Natchez	103	68	84	81	+ 3	0.80	-0.04	1	1.30				
Oakley	107	69	87	80	+ 7	0.00	-0.77	0	0.66	111	83	96	
Vicksburg						0.00		0	0.61				
Extreme/Average	107	68	85	80	+ 5	0.33	-0.51	1	1.30	111	80	94	
8. South-Central													
Columbia				81		0.01	-1.24	1	3.05				
McComb	98	70	83	80	+ 3	1.35	+0.17	4	6.20				
Extreme/Average	98	70	83	80	+ 3	0.68	-0.37	3	3.05				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont						0.00		0	6.94				
Hattiesburg				81									
Laurel	101	69	84	80	+ 4	0.00	-0.98	0	3.15				
Meridian	102	66	84	80	+ 4	0.29	-0.44	1	1.88				
Newton	102	65	83	79	+ 4	0.00	-0.88	0	3.48	96	79	87	0.26
Extreme/Average	102	65	83	80	+ 3	0.06	-0.76	1	2.84	96	79	87	0.26
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	102	68	84			0.18		1	3.02				
Biloxi AFB	99	75	85			1.01		2	3.26				
Gulfport	96	71	83	82	+ 1	0.56	-0.77	3	3.95				
Pascagoula	97	69	83			0.01		1	6.22				
Poplarville	102	70	85	80	+ 5	0.07	-1.18	2	3.24	104	79	91	0.25
Extreme/Average	102	68	84	81	+ 3	0.37	-1.03	2	3.40	104	79	91	0.25
State	107	63	84	80	+ 4	0.17	-0.64	2	1.91	111	77	90	0.27

DFN = Departure from Normal.

"E" = Estimated Values.